



**Office of the Attorney General
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Leslie Newman**

NEWS RELEASE

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL JOINS BROAD COALITION TO SPONSOR 10th ANNUAL
NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK**

Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper and Mary Clement, Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, join federal, state, and local government agencies and national consumer advocacy organizations to announce the 10th annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), March 2-8, 2008.

This year's message encourages consumers to improve their financial know-how. Financially savvy consumers are more likely to make smarter decisions about managing their money and using credit wisely.

January foreclosure numbers indicate foreclosure activity is continuing to rise and has increased substantially from a year ago in many states. A recent news report from the National Bankruptcy Research Center shows that one in every 59 households filed for bankruptcy in 2007, and Americans carry more than \$915 billion in credit card debt.

"Education is key for consumers who want to manage their money wisely and protect themselves from financial distress," said Attorney General Cooper. "We encourage all consumers to be aware of the resources available during NCPW."

The Attorney General's Office and Division of Consumer Affairs will team up with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to kick off the week, distributing consumer literacy information. In addition, a special NCPW banner is now featured on the front page of the Attorney General's website at www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us for consumers to access information ranging from automotive shopping tips to predatory lending and identity theft.

Mary Clement states, "The Division of Consumer Affairs is pleased to participate in National Consumer Protection Week and offers consumers valuable resources, contacts, and financial advice via our website at www.state.tn.us/consumer/".

In addition, NCPW partner organizations provide practical and tactical tips so consumers can learn how to make well-informed financial decisions, avoid credit scams, and protect their personal information. Consumers can boost their financial IQ at consumer.gov/ncpw.